UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,304	03/19/2001	Thomas H. Hampton	03516P007	2247

			EXAMINER
7590	08/10/2004		KIANERSI, MITRA

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>03</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 March 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *19 March 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *06/16/2003*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claims 1-21 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Anderson et al. (US 2004/0078490).

1.   As per claim 1, a method comprising:

receiving a plurality of mapping requests from a plurality of network users identified by a

plurality of network addresses;

deriving a geographic location of a network user associated with a network address

based on the plurality of network addresses and the plurality of mapping requests.

(most network addresses (e.g., IP addresses) are associated with a particular

geographic location. This is because routers that receive packets for a particular set of

machines are fixed in location and have a fixed set of network addresses for which they

receive packets. The machines that routers receive packets for tend to be

geographically proximal to the routers. Roaming Internet-Ready devices are rare

exceptions. For certain contexts, it is important to know the location of a particular

network address. Mapping a particular network address to a geographic location may

be termed "geolocation". An exemplary system and methodology by which geographic

locations can be derived for a specific network addresses, and for address blocks, are

described below. Various methods of obtaining geographic information, combining such

geographic information, and inferring a "block" to which a network address corresponds

and which shares the same geographic information are described, [0046]).

2.   As per claims 2, 15 and 19, the method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a request to provide the geographic location of the network user;

providing the geographic location of the network user. (At block 40, a user (or process)

enters a job request to the data collection broker 22 via, for example, a web interface.

Job scheduling is also an option for the user. At block 42, the relevant data collection

broker 22 accepts a request, and determines what data collection agents 18 will service

the request. The data collection broker 22 also sets a unique session identifier (USID),

[0064].

3.   As per claims 3,16 and 20, the method of claim 2 further comprising:

communicating geographically relevant information based on the geographic location.

(The custom website is supported by the application server 6, which upon

receiving an IP address associated with the user machine 2, communicates this

IP address to the geolocation Application Program Interface (API) 7 hosted that

the customer site. Responsive to receiving the IP address, the API 7 communicates

the IP address to a delivery engine server 64 of the delivery engine system 16, [0051]).

4.   As per claim 4, the method of claim 1 wherein the network user is identified by an

Internet Protocol (IP) address. (The term "network address", for purposes of the present

specification, shall be taken to include any address that identifies a networked entity,

and shall include Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, [0045])

5.   As per claims 5 and 11, the method of claim 1 wherein deriving the geographic

location comprises:

assigning a first set of network addresses to a first defined geographic

region based on the predominance of the plurality of network addresses that

issued mapping requests included in the defined geographic region. (Based on the

degree of similarity between the "best estimate" geographic location and its competing

locations, different confidence factors are assigned for the geographic resolution levels,

which are transformed by a confidence-accuracy translator (CAT) 126 into a probability of accuracy for the winning location. [0194])

6.   As per claim 6 and 12, the method of claim 1 wherein deriving the geographic location comprises:

grouping those mapping requests sharing a common portion of the network address. Various methods of obtaining geographic information, combining such geographic information, and inferring a "block" to which a network address corresponds and which shares the same geographic information are described, [0046]).

7.   As per claims 7, 17 and 21, the method of claim 1 wherein deriving comprises: determining a confidence factor for the geographic location. (FIG. 13 is a flowchart illustrating a method, according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, performed by a RegEx LDM to identify one or more geographic locations associated with network address and associated at least one confidence factor with each of the identified geographic locations, [0024]

8.   As per claim 8, the method of claim 1 further comprising: communicating geographically relevant information based on the geographic location. Every candidate geographic location must pass through each relevant confidence map and has multiple confidence factors associated therewith combined, [0216]

9.   As per claim 9, a method comprising:

receiving a plurality of mapping requests from a plurality of internet users identified by a plurality of internet Protocol (IP) addresses;

analyzing a correspondence between IP addresses and mapping requests to determine geographic locations of the Internet users. (most network addresses (e.g., IP addresses) are associated with a particular geographic location. This is because routers that receive packets for a particular set of machines are fixed in location and have a fixed set of network addresses for which they receive packets. The machines

that routers receive packets for tend to be geographically proximal to the routers. Roaming Internet-Ready devices are rare exceptions. For certain contexts, it is important to know the location of a particular network address. Mapping a particular network address to a geographic location may be termed "geolocation". An exemplary system and methodology by which geographic locations can be derived for a specific network addresses, and for address blocks, are described below. Various methods of obtaining geographic information, combining such geographic information, and inferring a "block" to which a network address corresponds and which shares the same geographic information are described, [0046]).

10.   As per claim 10, the method of claim 9 further comprising:
deriving a geographic location of an internet user based on the analyzing. (Obtaining a location: The unified mapping process 61 can be run on the test network address to derive a location and this location can be matched against the location of the subject network address. [0147])

11.   As per claim 13, the method of claim 12 wherein the common portion comprises the first three bytes of an IP address. (another way of determining this outcome would be to view the relevant network as two 25-bit networks, rather than a single 24-bit network. [0174]).

12.   As per claim 14, a machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations comprising: receiving a plurality of mapping requests from a plurality of network users identified by a plurality of network addresses; deriving a geographic location of a network user associated with a network address based on the plurality of network addresses and the plurality of mapping requests. (most network addresses (e.g., IP addresses) are associated with a particular geographic location. This is because routers that receive packets for a particular set of machines are fixed in location and have a fixed set of network addresses for which they receive packets. The machines that

routers receive packets for tend to be geographically proximal to the routers. Roaming Internet-Ready devices are rare exceptions. For certain contexts, it is important to know the location of a particular network address. Mapping a particular network address to a geographic location may be termed "geolocation". An exemplary system and methodology by which geographic locations can be derived for a specific network addresses, and for address blocks, are described below. Various methods of obtaining geographic information, combining such geographic information, and inferring a "block" to which a network address corresponds and which shares the same geographic information are described, [0046]).

13.   As per claim 18, a system comprising:
means for receiving a plurality of mapping requests from a plurality of network users identified by a plurality of network addresses;
means for deriving a geographic location of a network user associated with a network address based on the plurality of network addresses and the plurality of mapping requests. (most network addresses (e.g., IP addresses) are associated with a particular geographic location. This is because routers that receive packets for a particular set of machines are fixed in location and have a fixed set of network addresses for which they receive packets. The machines that routers receive packets for tend to be geographically proximal to the routers. Roaming Internet-Ready devices are rare exceptions. For certain contexts, it is important to know the location of a particular network address. Mapping a particular network address to a geographic location may be termed "geolocation". An exemplary system and methodology by which geographic locations can be derived for a specific network addresses, and for address blocks, are described below. Various methods of obtaining geographic information, combining such geographic information, and inferring a "block" to which a network address corresponds and which shares the same geographic information are described, [0046]).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Kianersi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4650. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (703) 308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Mitra Kianersi
08/02/2004

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